

CONGREGATION  
B'NAI TIKVAH

# TIKVAH TALK

September/ October 2017

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 37 Iss. 1



L'Shana Tovah, B'nai Tikvah.

In the midst of a frightening and divisive season, we offer these words of comfort and inspiration by Judy Chicago. She writes of better times, and our hope is that as the New Year comes into focus, such times will find us all.

May this be a year of joy and renewal, of the fruition of our dearest hopes, and of peace both within and around us.

From our homes to our beloved synagogue home: Ken Y'hi Ratzon. May it indeed be so.

*Rebbitz Gatterman & Cantor Chafon*

*"And then all that has divided us will merge  
And then compassion will be wedded to power  
And then softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind  
And then both men and women will be gentle  
And then both women and men will be strong  
And then no person will be subject to another's will  
And then all will be rich and free and varied  
And then the greed of some will give way to the needs of many  
And then all will share equally in the Earth's abundance  
And then all will care for the sick and the weak and the old  
And then all will nourish the young  
And then all will cherish life's creatures  
And then everywhere will be called Eden once again"*

Congregation B'nai Tikvah is a Reform congregation which, through personal attention, provides to its members an extended family. The congregation fulfills its members' spiritual needs, fosters their Jewish identity, promotes the perpetuation of Judaism and its members' Jewish education, and encourages a commitment to full participation in Temple life.

## CONTACT

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## UPCOMING B'NAI MITZVAH

Bat Mitzvah of Clea Hansen  
Daughter of Julie & Michael Hansen  
Saturday, September 2



Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Bronstone  
Son of Madeleine & Trace Bronstone  
Saturday, September 9

Bat Mitzvah of Ilana Roginsky  
Daughter of Renata & Michael  
Roginsky  
Saturday, October 7



Shabbat Services begin at 10 am.  
The Congregation is invited to attend.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Tikvah Talk is published 6 times a year and is distributed free of charge to anyone expressing an interest in Congregation B'nai Tikvah. All news items are due the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Please submit articles electronically to [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org) (subject Tikvah Talk).

Congregation B'nai Tikvah can be accessed on-line at: <http://www.tikvah.org>.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dan Lapporte



Shalom B'nai Tikvah!

That word – Shalom – resonates pretty loudly with me right now. I'm writing this on a beautiful day in the middle of August, and our country has just been rocked by another round of senseless violence. This time it's Charlottesville, Virginia and an attack using an automobile as a weapon. Our reaction as citizens, a CBT community and Americans should be the same questioning and outrage as it's been for other tragedies both at home and abroad.

It will have occurred well before you read this article, but B'nai Tikvah, in coordination with the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County (ICCC), met in solidarity on Monday, August 14 in downtown Walnut Creek to protest the actions and show our support for the victims of the Charlottesville attacks. I suspect that many of you either participated or found other ways to express your angst at this deplorable act. This was a rapid response by our Social Action team, and inspires hope and tolerance in a world that seems to lack those things right now. A special thank you to Harry Wittenberg, our ICCCC representative and Alison Negrin and David Ratner, the co-chairs of our Social Action Committee for quickly pulling together CBT's response.

Shalom also resonates with me for positive reasons. On July 26th, we celebrated our 25+ year members at an open house sponsored by Rabbi Gutterman. I was thrilled to see and hear from so many people who have called CBT home for more than two decades. I heard ideas that worked 25 years ago – when CBT was a just a teen – that still resonate today as we turn 37 years old: Connections, engagement, and participation. The energy in the room was inspiring as we think about where we're heading based on where we've been.



Another highlight in August was our Shabbat service in Civic Park on August 4 where Moses actually made an appearance as Cantor Chabon led Shabbat Services! Moses (well, an exquisitely in-character Steve Chabon) helped the children attending this Family Shabbat service understand – and probably remember – the details of the Parsha Va'etchanan | | "ואתחנן" | pleaded." Moses, struggling with his memory at about 4,500

years old, asked the children to help him remember how long we wandered in the desert: Was it 40 minutes? 40 days?... You get the idea.

I was also privileged to attend the first of a new offering at CBT: Nishma – a Saturday morning Shabbat service led by Cantor Chabon. About 75 people attended Nishma #1 which

*continued on page 6*

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Keren Smith, Director of Education



Welcome Back

This summer brought with it a few milestones to my family; we celebrated my eldest's Bat Mitzvah, and started the school journey with my youngest as she started Kindergarten. These two milestones brought front and center the dichotomy of time; on one hand time moves so fast; it seems like only yesterday I became a new mom, bringing home my newborn baby and figuring out everything for the first time. I cannot believe that was thirteen years ago- time has gone by like a blink of an eye. Yet, at the same time, that day and the mystery of being a new mom are long gone; I am no longer that young mother struggling to figure it all out – in that way light years have passed and I have evolved into a much more confident and knowledgeable mother. I feel similarly about the place I find myself with the new school year about to start. This will be my second year with you, which is so hard to believe for exactly those two opposite reasons. On the one hand I feel like I was just hired yesterday starting out in this new journey with you. Yet on the other, I feel I know you, I know the school, the teachers, our community, the families and the kids – and that relationship feels much deeper than a year's worth.

I am so excited to start a new year with my old friends and with new friends who are joining us for our Back to School Day September 10th. At the end of the school year I asked the school families to take a survey to help us understand their experience as we continue to enhance and improve our program. Nearly 50% of our school families participated in the survey – thank you so much- and provided us with valuable feedback that helps with both understanding what needs attention and improvement and in designing new programming to enrich our families' experience.

We have a number of exciting programs starting this fall in the school which I will go over the first day of school. Here are a few of the changes in the coming year: **On Tuesdays we will now meet from 4 – 6pm , and are going to start a new elective program for 3rd – 7th grades called Affikim.** Affikim is Hebrew for streams or pathways, and my hope is that children will flow with their own stream, an Affik, that speaks to them. Affikim electives will be offered twice a year, fall session and winter session when children will be able to choose from a number of options. Affikim electives are designed to teach our curricular content in a more hands on interactive way. For example, in our cooking electives children will learn about Kashrut laws, the value of feeding the needy, the different Holidays, and about Jewish heritage from around the world. All our Affikim electives combine education and fun experiences.

Another new program is our optional after school enrichment called **Yesh!** Enrichment with a Jewish Twist! This program will take place Sunday after school for an hour, with programming ranging by age and topic. The Yesh! program is open to the greater Jewish community and is designed to enrich our children's life with fun and engaging topic specific activities while allowing them to be with their friends and make new ones.

*continued on page 6*

# SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

Amazingly, its time for High Holydays.

And of course, time for our Membership Brunch. I would love to see all of our Sisterhood Members join us on Sunday, October 1 at 9:45 in our Social Hall.

If you haven't joined Sisterhood yet, you can do that at Brunch. Please bring a check for \$36 (or \$54 for Chai) payable to CBT.

For the Mah Jongg schedule, contact Beth Riseman [bethrise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bethrise@sbcglobal.net).

If you are not receiving my emails with updates generally twice a month, please send your email address to [raynaravitz@gmail.com](mailto:raynaravitz@gmail.com).

## SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, September 13 – Mah Jongg at 7:00 at CBT

## OCTOBER

Sunday, October 1 – Sisterhood Membership Brunch at 9:45 at CBT  
Save the date for our ONE meeting a year.  
This is the time to bring us your programming ideas.  
We will be looking for a speaker from a non-profit for our Sisterhood Shabbat.  
This is a chance to see friends and make new ones.  
Brunch will be catered.  
All women new to CBT are complementary members.  
Bring books you want to pass along.  
RSVP: [raynaravitz@gmail.com](mailto:raynaravitz@gmail.com) or on evite when it's sent.

Tuesday, October 3 – 20th Annual Taste of Walnut Creek

Monday, October 16 – Book Sisters at 6:30 at CBT  
“In the Darkroom” by Susan Faludi  
Joan Weinstein will lead the discussion.  
Dinner: Catered by Morucci's \$10  
RSVP: [Raynaravitz@gmail.com](mailto:Raynaravitz@gmail.com)

## NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 14 – Book Sisters at 6:30 at CBT  
“A Gentleman in Moscow” by Amor Towles  
The paperback book is available at Amazon.

## DECEMBER

Thursday, December 7 – Sisterhood Chanukah Party at CBT  
Potluck dinner—details to follow.

Tuesday, December 19 – Book Sisters at 6:30 at CBT  
“All the Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr  
Marilyn Mansfield will lead the discussion.

# WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Jason & Katalin Albert  
Simon

Judy Caplan Windrix

Julia & Tom Clenell  
Elijah & Michaela

Richard & Susan Desmond

William & Kim Hecht  
Ethan & Samuel

Cathie & Richard Izen

David & Jamila Low  
Shayna

Justin & Marianne Miller  
Alexander & Julia

Brittany & Daniel Rein  
Michaela

Michael Rogoff & Lisa Mercer  
Bethany, Gabriel & Jonah

Jesse & Sylvie Rosenbaum  
Aliya & Jonathan

Judy Weil

## SHALOM CONNECTION

### Condolences to:

Carla Garrett and family on the loss of her mother Yetta Heynick

Michael Samuel and family on the loss of his mother Dorothy Schuman Samuel

Have something to share? Please let us know! Email [amanda@tikvah.org](mailto:amanda@tikvah.org).



# SOCIAL ACTION

Social Action; more than just a committee at B'nai Tikvah.

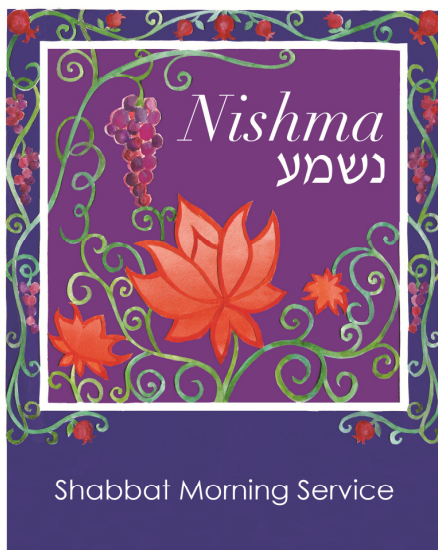
CBT Social Action – The Immigrant Accompaniment Team

Judy Gordon and I celebrated Mother's Day this year at the West County Detention Facility in Richmond meeting Gabriela and her 3-year old son, Andrew, who were spending their Mother's Day visiting Andrew's dad, Leandro. Leandro had been in detention for two years fighting a removal order and Gaby was growing increasingly anxious about his health and her ability to support the family on her own. The prospects of a happy outcome were looking increasingly dismal. Judy and I were meeting Gabby because CBT was forming a team to accompany this family on their journey through one of the least hopeful sides of our immigration system. The accompaniment team was organized and trained by the Nueva Esperanza Project of the Movement for Human Integrity, an organization that also helps facilitate the Multi-Faith Immigration Coalition for Action (MICA) in Contra Costa County. Fast-forward to late July, and our little accompaniment team was celebrating Leandro's release on bail at Gaby and Leandro's home



along with their family and friends. Between that first meeting in West County and this celebration, our team of five CBT members had grown to include a partnership with an equal number from Orinda Community Church and an immigrant rights activist from Richmond. We raised money to help with some non-legal expenses to help Leandro's case and to help pay some back bills. We took Gaby to look at apartments when it appeared she might have to move from her current home. We helped her look for childcare and to find ways of building a credit history (something she never worried about when Leandro was around). We bought the excellent Mexican food she cooked to help her get a business off the ground. We took Andrew to ride the steam trains at Tilden Park to help alleviate some of the anxiety he felt about his "Poppi" leaving and not coming home. We joined more than 50 community members writing letters and attending the bail hearing. We learned that Leandro, who has been a construction worker living and working in Concord for 20 years, came here as a 16-year old looking for a better life. This is a story much like that of my own great-grandfather's. Of course the biggest difference is that when my great-grandfather came here in the 1890s, there were virtually no immigration restrictions for non-Asians. Today, if you come from places like Mexico and Central America it is almost impossible to find a legal path to U.S. residency. In addition to forging a bond of true friendship with Gabby, Leandro, and Andrew we have received the gift of being able to live the mitzvah of welcoming the stranger and doing it alongside our neighbors from Orinda Community Church, each of us interpreting our different faith traditions in ways that compelled us to help. Now when I go to visit Gaby in her home in the Monument Corridor, I see friends and neighbors who are no longer strangers. That is a good feeling.

If you would like to find out more about the CBT Immigrant Accompaniment Team or would like to volunteer, contact me (Michael Fischer, [mjf115@gmail.com](mailto:mjf115@gmail.com), 925-212-9653).



## NISHMA

### We Will Listen

A new once -a -month Saturday morning musical worship experience.

October 14 at 10 am

Families are welcome and Shabbat programming for children will be provided.

Come be the part of something new and exciting!

# CONTRIBUTIONS

## GENERAL FUND

*Marianne and Justin Miller*  
In memory of Robert B. Tucker  
*Dale Tucker*  
In memory of Leon S. Milsner  
*Donna and Richard Milsner*  
In memory of Marilyn Assael  
In memory of Irving Assael  
*Melissa and Brian Assael*  
In memory of Isidore Kaplan  
*Iris Kaplan*  
In memory of Janet Trepper  
*Alvin Trepper*  
In memory of Martin Fink  
*Michael Fine*  
In memory of Robert Landis  
*Debra Landis*  
In memory of Malcolm Vineberg, Sr.  
*Joni Vineberg*  
In memory of August Gordon  
*Robin and Larry Gordon*  
In memory of Margaret Ghirado  
*Rachel Van Cleave and Joe Schottland*  
In memory of Martin Winslow  
*Beverly and Phillip Winslow*  
In memory of Carol Gunter  
*Bert Gunter*  
In memory of Dorothy Tobias  
*Carol and Allan Tobias*  
In memory of Chiune Sugihara  
*Pat Viera*  
In memory of Max Sheldon  
*Christine and Murray Sheldon*  
In memory of Phyllis Sirota Lutzker  
*Ann and Stuart Lutzker*  
In memory of Michael Samuel's mother,  
Dorothy Schuman Samuel  
*Leah Eskenazi*  
In memory of Stephen Slavet  
*Andrea and Benjamin Slavet*  
In memory of William Tama  
*Sharon and Hugh Tama*  
In memory of Beatrice Sauve  
*Annette and Michael Cohn*  
In memory of Bernice Posner  
*Patricia Mitrakis and Joshua Bevitiz*  
In memory of Geraldine Berres  
*Kimberly and Brian Zagon*

## RABBI GUTTERMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation for Jake's Bar Mitzvah  
*Debbie and Mike Schoenholz*  
In memory of Paul Rogen  
*Ivy Noceto and Larry Simon*

## CANTOR CHABON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation for Jake's Bar Mitzvah  
*Debbie and Mike Schoenholz*  
In honor of Michaela's Naming  
*Judy and Walt Blum*  
*Brittany and Daniel Rein*  
In memory of Mary Margaret Viera  
*Pat Viera*

## CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In memory of Carla Garrett's mother,  
Yetta Heynick  
*Lisa and Howard Wenger*  
*Cookie Svingos*  
In memory of Hannah Roth  
*Sharon and Ron Brown*  
In memory of Irving Lerner  
In memory of Joseph Lerner  
In memory of Alice Lerner  
*Nessa and Robert Wilk*  
In honor of Cantor Chabon  
*Sandra and Karl Bemserderfer*  
In memory of Sadie Teitelman  
*Carol Teitelman*

## JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Bernie Smilo  
In memory of Rebecca Bitton  
*Bernadette and Nathan Bitton*

## CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS CHOIR FUND

In memory of Myron Woldman  
In memory of Stephanie Woldman  
*Marjorie and Cantor Stephen Richards*

## STEPHAN JASPAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In honor of Judy Colton on her Special  
Birthday  
*Mort and Amy Friedkin*  
In honor of High Holy Days  
*Hanna and Fred Carter*

## MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST FUND

In honor of Zaffy Welch's birthday  
*Sabrina Robbins*  
In memory of Donald Goodman  
*Loren Burns and Family*  
In memory of Luna Nadjari  
*Zaffy Welch*

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND

*Judy Gordon*  
In memory of David Albert Negrin  
*Alison Negrin and Kevin Barnett*  
In memory of Florence Reif  
*Carol Reif and Jeff Gilman*  
In memory of Goldie Glickman  
*Judy Gordon*  
In memory of Abraham Leventhal  
*Diane and Victor Leventhal*

## HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

*Diane and Victor Leventhal*  
In memory of Janet Trepper  
*Robin and Jeff Brotman*  
In memory of Louis Dienst  
*Gloria Kemna*  
In memory of Julie Cherry  
In memory of Don Cherry  
*Craig Cherry*

## JOSEPH ASHER MEMORIAL LECTURE FUND

In memory of Heinz Fenichel  
*Barbara Fenichel*

# PRESIDENT'S

# MESSAGE

*continued from page 3*

was infused with traditional prayer, chanting and, of course, the beautiful music of Lisa Zeiler and Cantor Chabon. Nishma is a wonderful new monthly service offered at CBT. I encourage everyone to give it a try in the coming months.

Finally, as we gear up for the High Holy Days in mid- and late-September, I'll ask you to keep the word Shalom – peace – at the top of your minds. In a world so often rocked by violence, disagreement, hate and pain, it's easy to get lost in the chaos. The High Holy Days offer us all an opportunity to reflect, consider and plan for a better year ahead. These Days of Awe remind us what our world and community can be.

I look forward to seeing you all in the coming weeks.

As always, please contact me at bnaitikvahpresident@gmail.com with thoughts about CBT.

B'Shalom –

Dan

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

*continued from page 3*

We are also introducing this year **Ask the Clergy**, a monthly program in which the Rabbi and Cantor are going to each meet with Kindergarten through 6th grade to answer questions they may have. This program is designed to cultivate closer relationships between the clergy and our students, and to communicate the value of asking questions and exploring thoughts in Judaism.

I am very excited to unveil these program and more when I see you on September 10th for our Back To School Day. I look forward to another year of fun times, growth, learning, and community building with you.

# HIGH HOLIDAY INFORMATION

## High Holiday Schedule

Mark your calendars with the schedule —

Tickets are required for all Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, and will be mailed to all members in good standing at the beginning of September.

### Saturday, September 16 at CBT

7:30 pm Program of Reflection

8:30 pm Dessert & Havdallah

9:30 pm Selichot Service

### Wednesday, September 20

8:00 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

### Thursday, September 21

9:00 am Tot Rosh Hashanah Service

10:00 am Rosh Hashanah Service

Junior Congregation

5:00 pm Tashlich (casting of sins) – Civic Park,  
Walnut Creek

### Friday, September 29

8:00 pm Kol Nidre Service

### Saturday, September 30

9:00 am Tot Yom Kippur Service

10:00 am Morning Yom Kippur Service

Junior Congregation

4:00 pm Afternoon Yom Kippur Service

6:00 pm Yizkor Service

6:30 pm Neilah Service

7:15 pm Break-the-Fast

Do you have unaffiliated friends who would like to join us for Tot Services?

Have them contact the Temple Office for complimentary tickets



## What's new at the HDDs this year?

- **Timing-** the new Morning Service time

Set your alarms— morning services will now begin at 10:00 am

- **Addition of a Junior Congregation-**

**Who:** Students who are in Kindergarten—4th Grade

**What:** A shorter more interactive holiday experience and service for children

**When:** Begin in the main service at 10:00 and then Keren our Director of Education and staff will take the age appropriate students to an hour long service experience. They will be brought back into the main service.

**Questions:** contact the CBT office

- **Addition of Tot High Holiday Services for families with children 5 years old & under**

*(Tot Service replaces our Children's Service)*

At 9:00 am on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we invite all families with children up to age 5 for a short family holiday service. Lots of singing and stories for our youngest members.

## Selichot

Our Selichot service, comprised of music, readings and special penitential prayers for the season will be held Saturday September 16. We'll begin with a dessert reception and Havdallah in the Social Hall at 8:30pm. You are warmly invited to attend and experience this special service, preceded by a program of reflection and discussion drawing on poetry, traditional text and insights on teshuvah with Rabbi Gutterman. Meet at 7:30pm in the Library downstairs.



# UPCOMING PROGRAMS



**Sip & Savor– Wednesday, September 13**

**7:00 pm**

**Total Wine, 3250 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill**

Just in time for Rosh HaShanah comes this engaging course on the history and manufacturing of fruit ciders. Enjoy eight tastings of apple and other ciders!

Pre-admission: \$20. At-the-door: \$23. Space is limited so RSVP is strongly recommended: [www.underonetent.org](http://www.underonetent.org). This is the first of three Sip & Savor courses for the 2017-2018 year, including Latkes & Vodkas (December 9) and The Grapes of Israel (April 14).

## **FOOD STAMPED– Screening & Dinner**

**Sunday, October 15, 5:30 PM**

**Guest Speakers Shira and Yoav Potash**

**Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 25 Hillcroft Ave., Walnut Creek**

Can you eat a well-balanced meal on a food stamp budget? Nutritionist Shira Potash and documentary filmmaker Yoav Potash will examine this issue in a post-screening discussion of their award-winning documentary. Dinner will feature a “food stamp” – roughly \$1.00 per person – menu. Food Stamped has been called “inspiring,” “delightful,” and “a must see.”

Admission: \$10 before October 13; \$15 at the door. Please bring 4 cans of food to donate to Monument Crisis Center. To register: 925.933.5397 or [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org).



**UNDER ONE TENT**

Contra Costa's Jewish Book & Arts Festival  
Fall/Winter 2016-2017



## You have something we want and desperately need.

It is rare that we are able to phrase a request quite so bluntly. However, for those who have a need for blood, whether due to an injury or illness, there is no substitute for human donors. We hope that if you meet the eligibility requirements you will become one of them. It is critical to meet this need on an on-going basis. You never know when you yourself may be the thankful recipient of someone else's donation.

On Sunday, October 8 from 9 am to 1 pm., Congregation B'nai Tikvah will host a blood drive on-site. It does not take long to donate and you will be rewarded with food and the knowledge that you have done something wonderful for our community.

There are steps that can be taken in advance of your donation to make the whole process easier and faster. Easier in terms of hydrating yourself well the day before and day of the donation and eating a good meal (which you can also get at CBT that morning) in advance. Faster by filling out the Blood Centers of the Pacific's on-line health questionnaire the morning of the drive before coming over and printing out and bringing with you the scan-able code that's generated.

So...please check the eligibility requirements – don't assume that foreign travel makes you ineligible – and sign up for a time that is convenient for you. If you are not already registered with the Blood Centers of the Pacific, you will need to register before signing up and that same ID/password will be used to access the on-line health questionnaire.

If you have any questions, please contact congregants Phil and Nicky Weismehl at [phinicky@astound.net](mailto:phinicky@astound.net) or 925-935-2403. Phil is a long-time donor and Nicky a former blood bank nurse.

To schedule your life-saving appointment, go to [www.bloodheroes.com](http://www.bloodheroes.com)  
Click 'Locate a Blood Drive' and enter sponsor code: CBT

The link will show that we are having two drives – one in October and one in the spring (Sunday, April 22). Please sign up for the October 8 drive and mark your calendar for the April drive (or sign up for that as well).



This year, the fourth Friday night Shabbat service each month will feature a teaching or presentation from Rabbi Gutterman on aspects of Jewish life that you – our congregants – have asked about through the years. Topics will range from the roots of Reform Judaism to how Jews approach death and mourning rituals. Mark your calendars now for this new program of learning and discussion together!

September 22, October 27, November 24, December 22, February 23, April 27, June 22

All Fourth Fridays begin at 7:30pm.



**TIKVAH L'ATID**  
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



**Bitton Family** Photo courtesy of: Marcus Photography

We grew up on different continents: Nat, an Englishman, whose Jewishness had been established growing up in a secular household in the East End of London; and Bernadette, who grew up in the East Bay, the daughter of Holocaust survivors. Her parents managed to blend two different religions together with total respect given to each one.

Four years ago, through serendipitous events, we found ourselves at the JCC of the East Bay. We enjoyed it so much that we found ourselves there at least once a week, with Nat also serving on the board. Then a friend invited us to Congregation B'nai Tikvah – what a revelation! We immediately felt that we had found our spiritual home.

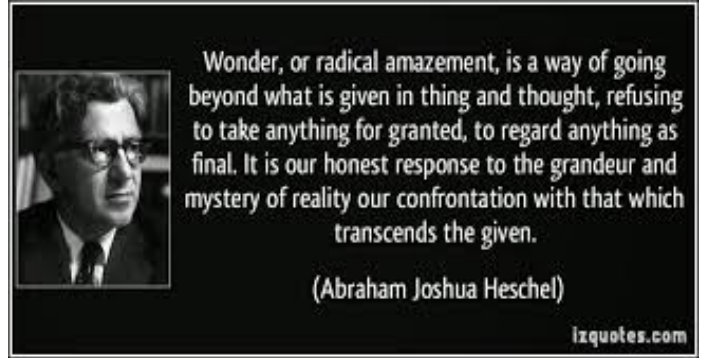
Donating today is important to us because we want to ensure that those wonderful institutions will be ongoing, "*L'dor V'dor*." And for *all* of our future children, we wish them the same joy and discovery of their Jewish heritage as it continues to be for us!

If you would like to remember CBT in your will, as a beneficiary in your life insurance or retirement account, or in some other convenient way, please contact Sandy Gross (sandyfgross@gmail.com), Judy Blum (jblum925@gmail.com), or Lisa Wenger (lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com).



Members of the Sibony/Pollack at the A's Jewish Heritage Night

## LEHRHAUS PHILOSOPHY CIRCLE: HESCHEL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



When I marched in Selma, I felt like my legs were praying. — Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Spiritual Leader. Scholar. Philosopher. Social Activist. 80 years ago, a young Abraham Joshua Heschel was appointed by Martin Buber to be the co-director of the Central Organization for Adult Jewish Education and Judisches Lehrhaus. Today, we carry on that legacy.

In honor of Abraham Joshua Heschel's contributions to Jewish learning and the social justice imperative that defines him, Lehrhaus is excited to offer a three-part course exploring this fundamental aspect of Heschel's life and Judaism. Part one will cover "Foundations." Part two is "Heschel as Religious Activist." And part three, "Moral Outrage, War, and Economics."

The texts we'll focus on are Abraham Joshua Heschel: Essential Writings (Orbis, 2011) and Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997). We will also read supplementary texts from other writers including Maimonides, Shai Held, Edward K. Kaplan, and Susannah Heschel.

Tuition- \$230 if registered by Sept 25 ; \$165 for members ; \$250 after Sept 25

Scholarships are available. Contact abra@lehrhaus.org for reduced tuition options.

Register online at lehrhaus.org.

Sign up for any two full-year Text Circles (Bible, Talmud, Zohar, Heschel) for \$300 before September 26. To receive the bundled rate, contact abra@lehrhaus.org.

Fall Session– 7:00-8:30 pm - held at B'nai Tikvah

Oct 26, Nov 2, Nov 9 & Nov 16

Winter Session– 7:00-8:30 pm– held at B'nai Shalom

Jan 17, Jan 24, Jan 31, & Feb 07

Spring Session– 7:00– 8:30 pm—held at B'nai Tikvah

May 17 , May 24 , May 31 , & Jun 07

# SEPTEMBER 2017

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
|   |   |  |  |   | 1<br>6:30pm - Family Shabbat  | 2<br>9am - Lay Led Torah Study<br>10am - Shabbat Service -                  |
| 3   | 4<br><b>Labor Day</b><br>7pm - Choir Rehearsal                                    | 5<br>10am - Jewish Meditation -                            | 6<br>10am - Open Bridge  | 7<br>7pm - Choir Rehearsal  | 8<br>6:30pm - Back to School  | 9<br>9am - Lay Led Torah Study<br>10am - Shabbat Service -                  |
| 10<br><b>Religious School Starts</b><br>9am - Gift Shop Open<br>12pm - Choir Off site             | 11<br>6pm - Executive Board<br>7pm - Choir Rehearsal<br>7:30pm - Ritual Committee | 12<br>10am - Jewish Meditation -<br>4pm - Religious School | 13<br>10am - Open Bridge<br>7pm - Hard Cider Tasting                                     | 14<br>7pm - Choir Rehearsal   | 15<br>7:30pm - Shir Joy Shabbat                                     | 16<br><b>Selichot</b><br>9am - Lay Led Torah Study<br>10am - Morning Minyan |
| 17<br><b>Religious School</b><br>9am - Gift Shop Open<br>11am - Mussar Meeting                    | 18<br>7pm - Choir Rehearsal   | 19<br>10am - Jewish Meditation -<br>4pm - Religious School | 20<br><b>Erev Rosh Hashanah</b><br><b>Office Closes at 1:00 pm</b><br>10am - Open Bridge | 21<br><b>Office Closed</b><br><b>Rosh Hashana (New Year)</b><br><b>Rosh Hashanah</b><br>7pm - Choir Rehearsal | 22<br><b>Rosh Hashana II (New Year)</b><br>7:30pm - Shabbat Service | 23<br>9am - Lay Led Torah Study<br>10am - Morning Minyan                    |
| 24<br><b>Religious School</b><br><b>Tzom Gedaliah</b><br>9am - Gift Shop Open<br>10am - K'tan Tan | 25<br>5:30pm - Executive Board<br>6:30pm - General Board<br>7pm - Choir Rehearsal | 26<br>10am - Jewish Meditation -<br>4pm - Religious School | 27<br>10am - Open Bridge   | 28<br>7pm - Choir Rehearsal   | 29<br><b>Kol Nidre</b><br><b>Office Closes at 1:00 pm</b>           | 30<br><b>Yom Kippur</b><br><b>Yom Kippur</b>                                |

Check the website and weekly emails for most up to date calendar information.

Join us for Family Shabbat in the Park

Friday, September 1

Arrive at 6:00 pm for a picnic dinner

Civic Park, Walnut Creek.

Family Service begins at 6:30 pm

# OCTOBER 2017

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri   | Sat   |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| 1<br>9:30am - Sisterhood  | 2  | 3<br>Restaurant Walk<br>10am - Jewish Meditation -<br>4pm - Religious School<br>6pm - Restaurant Walk | 4<br>Erev Sukkot<br>10am - Open Bridge   | 5<br>Office Closed<br>Sukkot<br>Sukkot I                       | 6<br>Sukkot<br>Sukkot II<br>5:30pm - Tot Shabbat<br>6:30pm - Family Shabbat | 7<br>Bima- Rayna<br>Sukkot<br>Sukkot III<br>9am - Lay Led Torah Study<br>10am - Shabbat Service - |
| 8<br>Blood Drive<br>Religious School<br>Sukkot<br>Sukkot IV<br>9am - Gift Shop Open                 | 9<br>Columbus Day (regional)<br>Sukkot<br>Sukkot V<br>6pm - Executive Board<br>7:30pm - Ritual Committee | 10<br>No Religious School<br>Sukkot<br>Sukkot VI<br>10am - Jewish Meditation -                        | 11<br>No Midrasha<br>Shemini Atzeret - Simchat<br>Simchat Torah Service,<br>Sukkot<br>Sukkot VII/Hoshanah Rabah<br>10am - Open Bridge  | 12<br>Office Closed<br>Shmini Atzeret/Simchat<br>Simchat Torah | 13<br>6:30pm - Shabbat Service  | 14<br>Morning Minyan<br>9am - Lay Led Torah Study<br>10am - Nishma Service                        |
| 15<br>Religious School<br>9am - Gift Shop Open<br>11am - Mussar Meeting<br>5:30pm - Could you Exist | 16   | 17<br>10am - Jewish Meditation -<br>4pm - Religious School<br>6:30pm - Book Sisters                   | 18<br>10am - Open Bridge   | 19   | 20<br>7:30pm - Shir Joy Shabbat   | 21<br>Bima- Rayna<br>9am - Lay Led Torah Study<br>10am - Morning Minyan                           |
| 22<br>Religious School<br>9am - Gift Shop Open<br>10am - K'tan Tan                                  | 23<br>5:30pm - Executive Board<br>6:30pm - General Board   | 24<br>10am - Jewish Meditation -<br>4pm - Religious School  | 25<br>10am - Open Bridge   | 26<br>4pm - Mesibaba @ Social<br>7pm - Heschel Class           | 27<br>7:30pm - Shabbat Service  | 28<br>9am - Lay Led Torah Study   |
| 29<br>Religious School<br>9am - Gift Shop Open  | 30   | 31  | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Check the website and weekly emails for most up to date calendar information.</p> </div> |  |   |   |



## 15th Annual Trivia Night Saturday, November 4



We've been working hard all year to come up with great new questions to twist your mind and test your wits. Start gathering your teammates now. Trivia Night sold out last year and we fully expect the event to sell out once again. Don't miss out; register early.

Go online to get the registration form or contact our [CBTriviaGuys@gmail.com](mailto:CBTriviaGuys@gmail.com) for additional information.



# CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

It's a NEW YEAR at Contra Costa Midrasha! Join CCM for 2017-18 or 5778 for a year not to be missed. Not only do our Wednesday nights promise fantastic programs, electives and experiences for our teens, we've also got additional projects underway designed to inspire and change the world! Join us Sept. 13 at 7:15pm at our "pineapples and pirates" kick-off event with photo booth fun, donuts, and more! For more information, or to enroll visit: <https://shop.ccmidrasha.com>.

Why is Midrasha important to today's teens? Megan Bristow-Robinson explained at graduation that, "through Midrasha I have learned what it means to have genuinely respectful and educated discussions with people who may be carrying different experiences and different perspectives. I have learned what it means to be authentically happy, open and unapologetic in my Jewish identity. And most importantly what it truly means to be a good friend."

Here are key September/October Contra Costa Midrasha events: (see the full calendar at [ccmidrasha.com](http://ccmidrasha.com))

Sept. 6 - 8th Grade Orientation for teens and parents at B'nai Tikvah

Sept. 9 - Taco Party for CCM parents and community members

Sept. 13 - CCM's Kick-off Event, "Pirates & Pineapples!"

Sept. 17 - Teen Philanthropy Board Open House Event

In addition to CCM's Wednesday night programs, two addi-

tional teen-focused projects are available to our teens to teach new skills, inspire your mind and change the world. Here they are:

In "Better Together," teens will learn the skills to create, write, direct and edit a short documentary that will be screened at the end of the school year. This year-long inter-generational project consists of teens partnering with seniors living at the Reutlinger Community in Danville – hearing their stories, studying Jewish concepts of caring for our elders and crafting the life stories into a short film.

The Teen Philanthropy Board enables teens to "be the change we want to see in the world" by picking a mission, raising funds and giving money to charitable causes of our choosing. Once a month on Sundays we will spend three hours together – one hour of service at a local non-profit and two hours of philanthropic work and learning. This is a chance for teens to learn real leadership skills: becoming a philanthropist and tzaddik (person who does good in the world).

Applications for both programs are now being accepted online. Visit [www.ccmidrasha.com](http://www.ccmidrasha.com) to apply and learn more!

Midrasha returns for its 2017-18 year on September 13, 2017! All teens in our community are invited to join in – to inspire and do good work in the community, to be heard, to relax and to grow their own Jewish identity. To enroll today, make a donation, or find out more about CCM's programs, visit our website at [www.ccmidrasha.com](http://www.ccmidrasha.com). Or contact the office via phone at 925/944-4701 or e-mail at [contracostamidrasha@gmail.com](mailto:contracostamidrasha@gmail.com). See you in September!



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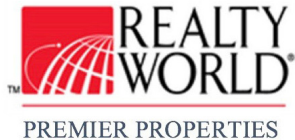


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Have YOU visited the Tzedakah box in our Lobby?

All donations received through September will be sent to

**Planned Parenthood**

This organizations was selected by our Social Action Committee.

## THE B'NAI TIKVAH GIFT SHOP

has many wonderful gifts for sale. Not only do we have a large selection of Judaica items, we also carry some of the nicest jewelry at great prices.

Do you know anyone with a birthday coming up or how about something for yourself?

Think about it - the Gift Shop profits benefit B'nai Tikvah in many ways.

Gift Shop shopping is doing a mitzvah!

The Gift Shop is open on Sunday mornings when Religious School is in session or call Irene Korn to make an appointment.

Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
25 Hillcroft Way  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

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«Line 2»

«Line 5»

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

**OCTOBER** Tuesday  
**3** *Restaurant Walk 6-9 pm*

The 20th Annual Restaurant Walk books are available!  
Contact the CBT office to get yours for \$30 each.  
This event is open to anyone, so bring your friends!

*Participating restaurants include:*

- |                          |                            |                                 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1515 Restaurant & Lounge | Lettuce                    | Silk Road Mediterranean Cuisine |
| Benvenuti                | Lokanta (new this year!)   | Skipolinis Pizza                |
| Broderick Walnut Creek   | Main Street Kitchen        | Slice House                     |
| Buckhorn Grill           | The Original Mel's Diner   | Tender Greens                   |
| Coffee Shop              | Peet's Coffee and Tea      | Tomatina                        |
| Cream                    | P. F. Chang's              | Veggie Grill                    |
| Crepes Ooh La La         | Pomegranate Restaurant     | Vitality Bowls                  |
| Extreme Pizza            | San Francisco Creamery Co. | Walnut Creek Yacht Club         |